

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/088,737

Examiner

King Y. Poon

Applicant(s)

KOANA, RYUZO

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 8/20/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 36,38-40, 42-44, 46-50; renumbered as claims 1-12.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 June 1998 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

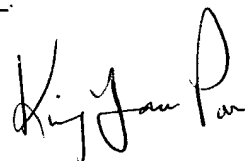
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER



1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The invention is directed to limiting selection conditions of functions provided by a plurality of image output apparatus, and selecting an image output apparatus for printing.

Claim 36 identifies the uniquely distinct features of "generating means for generating a plurality of lists in a case where a plurality selection conditions are designated by the operator, the plurality of lists respectively corresponding to the plurality of designated selection conditions and each of the lists including one or more image output apparatuses satisfying the corresponding selection condition; selection means for selecting an image output apparatus satisfying the plurality of designated selection conditions based on the plurality of lists generated by said generating means."

Claims 40, 44 identifies the uniquely distinct features of "generating a plurality of lists in a case where a plurality selection conditions are designated by the operator, the plurality of lists respectively corresponding to the plurality of designated selection conditions and each of the lists including one or more image output apparatuses satisfying the corresponding selection condition; selecting an image output apparatus satisfying the plurality of designated selection conditions based on the plurality of lists generated by said generating means."

The closest prior arts Lobiondo (US 5,287,194), Evantisky et al (US 5,045,880) and Filion et al (US 5,036,361); teaches a conventional system for limiting selection conditions of functions provided by a plurality of image output apparatus, and selecting

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an image output apparatus for printing; either singularly or in combination with other cited reference fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious (when used with other claimed limitations).

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to King Y. Poon whose telephone number is (703) 305-0892.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'King Y. Poon', is centered on the page.

11/22/04

KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER